

<http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation-overview/>

Deforestation is clearing Earth's forests on a massive scale, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land. Forests still cover about 30 percent of the world's land area, but swaths the size of Panama are lost each and every year.

Deforestation has many negative effects on the environment. The most dramatic impact is a loss of habitat for millions of species. Seventy percent of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests, and many cannot survive the deforestation that destroys their homes.

Deforestation also drives climate change. Forest soils are moist, but without protection from sun-blocking tree cover they quickly dry out. Trees also help perpetuate the water cycle by returning water vapor back into the atmosphere. Without trees to fill these roles, many former forest lands can quickly become barren deserts.

Removing trees deprives the forest of portions of its canopy, which blocks the sun's rays during the day and holds in heat at night. This disruption leads to more extreme temperatures swings that can be harmful to plants and animals.

Trees also play a critical role in absorbing the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming. Fewer forests means larger amounts of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere—and increased speed and severity of global warming.

The quickest solution to deforestation would be to simply stop cutting down trees. Though deforestation rates have slowed a bit in recent years, financial realities make this unlikely to occur.

A more workable solution is to carefully manage forest resources by eliminating clear-cutting to make sure that forest environments remain intact. The cutting that does occur should be balanced by the planting of enough young trees to replace the older ones felled in any given forest. The number of new tree plantations is growing each year, but their total still equals a tiny fraction of the Earth's forested land.

What are the effects of deforestation?

Reduced biodiversity: Deforestation and forest degradation can cause biodiversity to decline. When forest cover is removed, wildlife is deprived of habitat and becomes more vulnerable to hunting. Considering that about 80% of the world's documented species can be found in tropical rainforests, deforestation puts at risk a majority of the Earth's biodiversity.

Release of greenhouse gas emissions: Deforestation causes 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Of these, carbon dioxide emissions represent up to one-third of total carbon dioxide emissions released because of human causes. [Find out more about climate change and deforestation.](#)

Disrupted water cycles: As a result of deforestation, trees no longer evaporate groundwater, which can cause the local climate to be much drier.

Increased soil erosion: Deforestation accelerates rates of soil erosion, by increasing runoff and reducing the protection of the soil from tree litter.

Disrupted livelihoods: Millions of people rely directly on forests, through small-scale agriculture, hunting and gathering, and by harvesting forest products such as rubber. Deforestation continues to pose severe social problems, sometimes leading to violent conflict.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation>

Forests cover 31% of the land area on our planet. They produce vital oxygen and provide homes for people and wildlife. Many of the world's most threatened and endangered animals live in forests, and 1.6 billion people rely on benefits forests offer, including food, fresh water, clothing, traditional medicine and shelter.

But forests around the world are under threat from deforestation, jeopardizing these benefits. Deforestation comes in many forms, including fires, clear-cutting for agriculture, ranching and development, unsustainable logging for timber, and degradation due to climate change. This impacts people's livelihoods and threatens a wide range of plant and animal species. Some 46-58 thousand square miles of forest are lost each year—equivalent to 36 football fields every minute.

<http://www.livescience.com/27692-deforestation.html>

Deforestation is the permanent destruction of forests in order to make the land available for other uses. An estimated 18 million acres (7.3 million hectares) of forest, which is roughly the size of the country of Panama, are lost each year, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Some other common reasons are:

- To make more land available for housing and urbanization
- To harvest timber to create commercial items such as paper, furniture and homes
- To create ingredients that are highly prized consumer items, such as the oil from palm trees
- To create room for cattle ranching

Common methods of deforestation are burning trees and clear cutting. These tactics leave the land completely barren and are controversial practices.

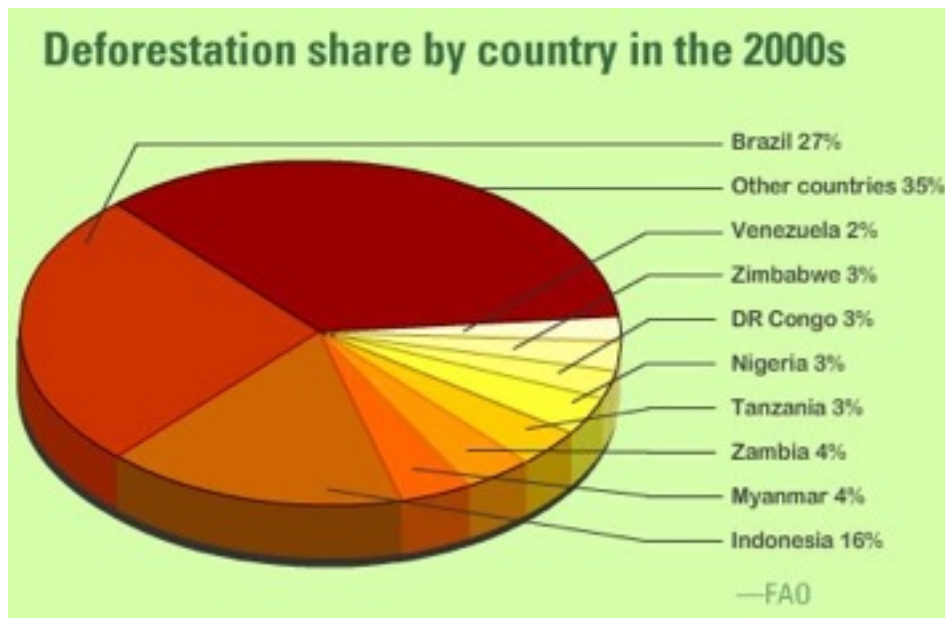
Clear cutting is when large swaths of land are cut down all at once. A forestry expert quoted by the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) describes clear cutting as "an ecological trauma that has no precedent in nature except for a major volcanic eruption."

Burning can be done quickly, in vast swaths of land, or more slowly with the slash-and-burn technique. [Slash and burn agriculture](#) entails cutting down a patch of trees, burning them and growing crops on the land. The ash from the burned trees provides some nourishment for the plants and the land is weed-free from the burning. When the soil becomes less nourishing and weeds begin to reappear over years of use, the farmers move on to a new patch of land and begin the process again.

<http://eschooltoday.com/forests/what-is-deforestation.html>

Deforestation is when humans remove or clear large areas of forest lands and related ecosystems for non-forest use. These include clearing for farming purposes, ranching and urban use. In these cases, trees are never re-planted.

Since the industrial age, about half of world's original forests have been destroyed and millions of animals and living things have been endangered. Despite the improvements in education, information and general awareness of the importance of forests, deforestation has not reduced much, and there are still many more communities and individuals who still destroy forest lands for personal gains.



<http://rabble.ca/columnists/2014/10/canada-now-worlds-leading-deforestation-nation>

Every four seconds, an area of the size of a football (soccer) field is lost," said Christoph Thies of Greenpeace International.

The current level of deforestation is putting more CO2 into the atmosphere than all the world's cars, trucks, ships and planes together,

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/09/05/canada-deforestation-worst-in-world_n_5773142.html

Add another black mark to Canada's environmental image around the world: The country now leads the planet in the degradation of untouched forests, according to a study from Forest Watch. Some 8 per cent of the world's virgin forests were degraded between 2000 and 2013, according to the study. That's 104 million acres, or an area about three times the size of Germany, [Forest Watch said](#).

<http://www.conserve-energy-future.com/various-deforestation-facts.php>

PUT THEASE FOR SURE ON THE SLIDE SHOW DO 2 ON EACH
PICK THE MOST IMPOTRAN ONES

Facts 1: Forests cover 30% of the earth's land.

**Facts 2: It is estimated that within 100 years there will be no
rainforests.**

Facts 3: Agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation

Facts 4: One and a half acres of forest is cut down every second.

**Facts 5: Loss of forests contributes between 12 percent and 17
percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. (World
Resources Institute)**

**Facts 6: If the current rate of deforestation continues, it will take
less than 100 years to destroy all the rainforests on the earth.**

**Facts 7: The rate of deforestation equals to loss of 20 football fields
every minute.**

***Facts 8: There are more than 121 natural remedies in the rain forest
which can be used as medicines. MAKE THIS AN INTRESTING
FACT***

**Facts 10: The over exploitation of forests is making it extremely
difficult to replant a new ecology.**

**Facts 11: 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon
forest.**

**Facts 12: Up to 28,000 species are expected to become extinct by the
next quarter of the century due to deforestation.**

***Facts 13: 25% of cancers fighting organisms are found in the
amazon. (instructing fact)***

***Facts 16: Half of the world's tropical forests has already been cleared.
Inserting fact.***

***Facts 17: 4500 acres of forests are cleared every hour by forest fires,
bull dozers, machetes etc.***

Facts 18: Poverty, [over-population](#) and unequal land access are the main causes of man-made deforestation.

Facts 19: The total world forest loss till date is 7.3 million hectares per year.

Facts 20: 1.6 billion people across the globe depend on forest products for their livelihoods there by adding more to deforestation.

Facts 21: Almost half of world's timber and up to 70% of paper is consumed by Europe, United States and Japan alone.

Facts 22: Industrialized countries consume 12 times more wood and its products per person than the non-industrialized countries.

Facts 23: The United States has less than 5% of the world's population but consumes more than 30% of the world's paper.

Facts 24: Fuel wood in sub Saharan African countries is consumed up to 200% times more than the annual growth rates of the trees. This is causing deforestation, lack of timber resources and loss of habitat for the species living in it.

Facts 25: Trees are important constituents of the ecosystem by absorbing carbon.

Facts 26: [Soil erosion](#), floods, wildlife extinction, [increase in global warming](#), and climate imbalance are few of the effects of deforestation.

Facts 27: Worldwide more than 1.6 billion people rely on forests products for all or part of their livelihoods.

Facts 28: Tropical forests, where deforestation is most prevalent, hold more than 210 gigatonnes of carbon.

Facts 29: According to Forestry Department Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about half the world's tropical forests have been cleared or degraded.

Facts 30: Tropical rainforests which cover 6-7% of the earth's surface, contain over half of all the plant and animal species in the world!

Facts 31: Deforestation affects water cycle. Trees absorb groundwater and release the same into the atmosphere during transpiration. When deforestation happens, the climate automatically changes to a drier one and also affects the water table.

Facts 32: The world's forests store 283 billion tons of carbon present in the [biomass](#).

The online business

Fact 33: Money to save trees is majorly collected online.

Fact 34: One can save up to 20 square feet of forest with online contributions thereby conveniently prevent deforestation.

Fact 35: Over 4 million tons of junk is created online by spamming.

Fact 36: 41 pounds of these junk mails are sent to almost every adult in the United States.

Fact 37: 44% of the junk mail goes unopened.

Fact 38: People in America spend more than 275 million dollars to dispose junk mails.

Fact 39: The paper industry is fourth largest in producing [greenhouse gas](#) thereby majorly contributing to deforestation.

Fact 40: On an average, a person in the United States uses more than 700 pounds of paper every year.

Take the right action

Fact 41: A lot of paper and cardboard is used unnecessarily for packing. This means more tree felling.

Fact 42: [Re- use paper](#) and plastic bags to discourage deforestation.

Fact 43: Use canvas or paper bags as another alternative.

Fact 44: Pick products which require less packaging.

Fact 45: Be creative and mail manufacturers telling them to use eco-friendly products. Show them your deforestation knowledge by highlighting certain important facts using statistics.

Fact 46: Sign effective petitions that work and help reduce deforestation.

How you can help:

Fact 48: Be active and plant trees- it can be at your homes, backyards or you can join any organization keen on stopping deforestation.

Fact 47: Support eco-friendly companies by buying their products that promise more durability in an inexpensive way.